

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /096 W
-----037176 242327Z /70

R 141305Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8911
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2598

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS RH ZA
SUBJ: RHODESIA: ZAMBIANS ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPED

1. A GROUP OF ZAMBIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SOUTHERN PROVINCE VILLAGERS WERE ABDUCTED BY RHODESIAN SOLDIERS LAST MONTH, ACCORDING TO A 22 JULY FRONT-PAGE STORY IN THE PARTY-OWNED TIMES OF ZAMBIA. DESPITE A HIGH-LEVEL DENIAL THE PREVIOUS DAY BY GREY ZULU, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIP CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S DEFENSE AND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE, THE TIMES CITES PARTY AND GOVERNMENT SOURCES FOR THE KIDNAP REPORT. THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR GWEMBE DISTRICT, WHERE THE RAID ALLEDGEDLY TOOK PLACE, CONFIRMED THE STORY. THE MP FOR GWEMBE ALSO TOLD THE TIMES THAT ANOTHER TEACHER HAD BEEN ABDUCTED SOMETIME LAST YEAR AND WAS STILL MISSING.

2. RHODESIAN SOLDIERS REPORTEDLY ATTACHED TO THE SELOUS SCOUTS CARRIED OUT A HELICOPTER ASSAULT ACROSS THE ZAMBIA BORDER

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IN EARLY JUNE. ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, THE UNIT LANDED IN GWEMBE, A FREQUENT RAIDING AREA, IN SEARCH OF GUERRILLAS. AFTER "TERRORISING THE POPULATION", THE SOLDIERS ABDUCTED A NUMBER OF VILLAGERS AND APPROXIMATELY SIX MALE TEACHERS FROM THREE PRIMARY SCHOOLS. THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE'S CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER CONFIRMED THAT THE SCHOOLS HAD BEEN CLOSED AND ABANDONED, BUT REFUSED TO OFFER AN EXPLANATION.

3. A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN IS ALSO QUOTED AS STATING THAT
"THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING ITS BEST TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE."
THE SPOKESMAN OFFERED NO OTHER DETAILS, BUT SAID THAT "WE MUST
SPEJC WITH CAUTION ON A MATTER LIKE THIS BECAUSE PEOPLE'S LIVES
ARE AT STAKE."
BARCAS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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